

To alienists living in States controlled by "the political machine," the conclusion of Clouston's report seems to us of special interest; he says, "One most gratifying fact I am pleased to be able to record. We have thirty-seven attendants and nurses in charge of wards, or chief night attendants, and we have had only one change among them in a year." "The average period of service of sixty important officials on which the efficiency of the institution and comfort and cure of the patients so much depends, is over ten years, and among them there are eight who have each served the institution for over twenty years, the oldest having seen service over thirty-five years. Indeed, as he says, this is a record of experience and fidelity of which any institution of this kind might well be proud, etc.

Thirty-third Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent of the State Asylum for Insane Criminals, New York, 1892.

(Now the Matteawan State Hospital), H. E. Allison, M.D., Superintendent.

This is the First Annual Report issued from the new institution, which was created by act of the legislature for the relief of the overcrowded asylum at Auburn.

This new hospital structure of modern architecture, commandingly situated and furnished with every convenience for the care of its inmates, was occupied during the latter part of April, 1892, the first patients having been received from Auburn asylum, the entire population of which was transferred.

Other patients, who had been cared for in various State hospitals, were transferred, making in all treated during the year, 402.

The sources of admission throughout the year were about equally divided between the penal institutions and the various courts. In a majority of the cases admitted from the prisons, the insanity had primarily developed while the subject was undergoing sentence; but in others, it evidently was present at the time their various crimes were committed, and probably was the moving cause. Nevertheless, the fact of existing insanity did not make itself manifest at the time of trial; or, if so, failed as a plea. In no case among those admitted directly to the custody of the hospital, by order of the courts, has an error been committed concerning the patient's mental unsoundness.

Crimes against the person, or acts which were intended to inflict personal injuries, were largely in preponderance.

Delusions of persecution are very common among such patients; and the misdeeds, as shown by the following list, such as would naturally arise from a desire to avenge themselves for imaginary grievances, viz.: arson, assault, blackmail, destroying property, manslaughter, murder and malicious annoyance.

Such cases constitute a dangerous element to be at large.

(This institution stands foremost among the hospitals for insane criminals in the United States, and New York is to be congratulated upon its progressiveness in the care and treatment of its dependent classes.—F. P. N.)

A Case of Incontinence of Urine Treated by Electricity.—Dr. Aquilus Gareiso reports the follow-

ing interesting case in the May, 1893, number of the *Anales del Circulo Medico Argentino*. The patient had been troubled the past ten years with enuresis, following an attack of typhoid fever. He further complained of pain over the pubis, on both sides of the vertebral column, and over the sacral region of the spine. There was no difficulty in urination, which occurred six or seven times daily, and the force of the flow was considerable. An endoscopic examination showed the bladder to be of normal size, admitting 420 grammes of fluid; not painful to touch, but at the neck of the bladder there was slight inflammation. The pupillary reflexes were normal, the patellar somewhat exaggerated, and the pharyngeal completely abolished. The treatment consisted in lavage of the bladder with a 1 to 500 solution of nitrate of silver. The Faradic current was employed as follows: the positive pole was placed over the genito-urinary centre in the spine, and the negative pole was introduced into the urethra as far as the neck of the bladder. The treatment lasted from three to fifteen minutes, and the incontinence disappeared entirely after twelve operations.

W. C. K.